



Get Ready for 2024

Get Ready to Grow!

Get ready to grow spiritually.

Get ready to grow numerically.

Mark 4:3-20

Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.

Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables.

He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you...”

Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any

parable?

The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

- **The footpath represents the life that's too busy to bother.**
- **Busy yourself with getting to know God.**

1 Timothy 4:8

Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

- **The rocky places represent the life that's too shallow.**
- **Don't settle for shallow faith, go deeper.**

Colossians 2:6-8

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

- **The thorny places represent the life full of worry, wanting of wealth, and worldly pursuits.**

- **Always make God your first priority.**

Matthew 6:31-34

So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

- **The good soil represents the life that hears the word, accepts it and produces fruit in their life.**

I must hear it.

I must accept it.

I must use it.